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THE JUST
COPY
OF A
LETTER

WRITTEN BY

Mr. *John M'Lelland,*

MINISTER of *Kirkudbright,*

TO

JOHN LORD
Kirkudbright.

FEBRUART, 20. 1649.

Printed in the Year 1719.

THE LAST

OF A

W. T. T. T. T. T.



MINIST

JOHN W. L. O. D.

PRINTED BY

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Mr. John M'Lelland

Minister of **KIRKUDBRIGHT.**

TO

JOHN Lord *Kirkudbright.*

20. February, 1649.

MY NOBLE LORD,

I Have received, and do acknowledge
my Obligations to your Lordship
to be re-doubled. I long much to
hear what Decision followed on
that Debate concerning *Patronages*. Upon
the most exact Trial they will be found
a great Plague to the KIRK, and an
Obstacle to the Propagation of Religion:
I have reason to hope, That such a wise
and well-constituted Parliament will be
loath to leave that Yoke upon the
Churches, so little adyantagious to any
Man,

Man, and prejudicial to the Work of GOD, as hath been many Times represented; yea, no Question, but the most Part of the Members of Parliament, and the whole Kingdom, hath suffered under it. Men may conceive peradventure that it is an Amplifying of the Ministers Privileges, but all the Profit shall not redound to the Ministry, but to the several Flocks. Certainly the removing of it were the stopping of the Way to *Simony*, except we will apprehend, that whole Presbyteries will be bribed for *Patronages*. I can say no more, but what Christ said to the *Pharisees*, -----

The pure primitive Church knew nothing of it.

But as for their previous Dispositions to a Rupture among Societies, I can say nothing to them, only this, I conclude their Judgment sleeps not; Shall they escape? Shall they break the Covenant and be delivered? seeing they have despised the Oath by breaking the Covenant: When lo they have given the Hand and have done all these Things, they shall not escape; *Ezek. 17. 16, 18, 19.*
which

which I dare apply to *England* (I hope) without wresting Scripture, *And therefore, thus saith the Lord God, as I live, surely mine Oath that he hath despised, and my Covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompence on his own Head: And I will spread my Net upon him, and he shall be taken in my Snare.* This Covenant was made with *Nebuchadnezzar*, and the Matter was civil, but the Tye religious, wherefore the Lord owns it as his Covenant, because God's Name was invocated and interponed in it, and he calls *England* to be Witness. *England's* Covenant was not made with *Scotland* only, but with the high and mighty God, principally for Reformation of his House, and it was conceived in the most solemn Manner that ever I read of, so that ye may call it God's Covenant, both formally and materially, and the Lord did second the making thereof with more than ordinary Success to that Nation; now it is manifestly despised and broken in the Sight of all Nations; therefore it remains that the Lord should avenge the Quarrel of his Covenant. *England* has had to do with

with the *Scots, French, Danes, Picts, Normas, and Romans*, but they had never such a Party to deal with, as the Lord of Armies, pleading for the Violation of his Covenant. They have tasted some Covenant Blessings, they are to receive some Covenant Curses, upon their Parliaments, Armies, Navies, Cities, Castles and fair Palaces. *English-Men* shall be made Spectacles to all Nations for a broken Covenant, when the living God swears, *As I live, even the Covenant that he hath despised, and the Oath that he hath broken, will I recompence upon his own Head.* There is no Place left for doubting. Hath the Lord said it? hath he sworn it? and will he not do it? His Assertion is a Ground for Faith, his Oath a Ground of full Assurance of Faith. If all *England* were as one Man united in Judgment and Affection, and if it had a Wall round about it reaching to the Sun, and if it had as many Armies as it has Men, and if every Soldier had the Strength of *Goliath*, and if their Navies could cover the Ocean, and if there were none to peep out or move the Tongue
against

against them, yet I dare not doubt of their Destruction, when the Lord hath sworn by his Life he will avenge the Breach of Covenant ——— when, and by whom, and in what Manner he will do it, I do profess Ignorance, and leave it to his glorious Majesty, his own Latitude, and will commit it to him, and look up and laugh at their new Models of a platonick Republick, they resolved no King; but the Day is coming, when a King will count it great Happiness to be from them and their Misery; and our KING and his House is not more despicable in their Eyes, nor they shall be in the Eyes of all Rulers. Who knows but *England* who now says, *We will have no King*, shall be supplicating for Shelter under the Wings of some Prince, and shall be disdained. There is much more than all this included in their Judgment.

My

My Lord, I live and will dye, and
 if I be called home before that Time,
 I am in the assured Hopes of the
 Ruine of all G O D's Enemies in the
 Land.

So I commit Your Lordship and
 your Lady to the Grace of
 G O D.

John M'Lelland



*Coppied from the Example, August the
 11th, M.DC.L.*

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